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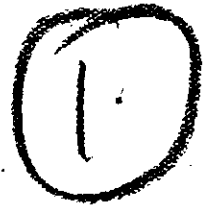


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Report on the
INDUSTRIAL SURVEY
of the United Provinces

Naini Tal. District

By
LOKMANI JOSHI, B.A., LL.B.



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FOREWORD.

NAINI TAL district comprises of three distinct tracts—the hills, the bhabar and the tarai—besides a small portion in the south-west corner which resembles the plains in all respects. The hills and the bhabar are covered with forests. Cultivation is more prominent in the bhabar than in the hills. The tarai resembles the plains in cultivation and trade.

The industries of the hills are confined to (1) fruit-growing, (2) a little leather work, (3) wooden toys, and (4) basket-making. Of these fruit-growing is the most important. Various kinds of fruits are grown, of which apples of several varieties are the most important. Several difficulties experienced by the fruit-growers are mentioned in the report, and remarks suggested to remove them. These deserve special attention. Transport is difficult, while packing has in some cases to be imported from foreign countries. The application of the local man who desires to make packing cases out of "Utish" deserves every consideration. A reduction of postal freight will increase exports considerably, thus bringing enhanced income to the Postal department in the long run. Strong and durable baskets for packing are a necessity and the industry needs to be organized. Labour and raw material are there as well as a demand for them. Capital and organization are wanting. The most suitable material for baskets will have to be selected. Fruit-growers' Association will perhaps be prepared to place large orders for them and to guarantee their continuous sale. It will be worth a capitalist to put himself in touch with the fruit-growers and the forest officers, select the most suitable material and organize the industry.

The utilisation of the bones at Mukteswar should also attract attention. Any bone manure which will be produced will be readily consumed by the orchardists of the hills.

The bhabar and tarai have many important centres of trade with the hillv tribes of Tibet and Bhutan. The trade consists

in exchange of wool, woollen blankets, spices, animals, etc., for grains, oilseeds, sugar, hand-woven cloth and fruits. This trade is very important and existence of many industries in the tarai and the neighbouring districts of Bijnor and Moradabad districts mainly depends upon the trade. An idea of this trade will be formed from the information given in Chapter IV—Statistics.

But the whole report is one story of want of development of the industries for want of capital, organization and transport. More than 1½ lakh maunds of oilseeds are exported from the district which imports both oil and oil-cakes for its own consumption. It has raw hides and skins, tanning material and cheap labour, but exports all its raw material to Cawnpore to get back tanned leather for its own use. It is unable to supply its own needs in cotton, but the only ginning factory exports all its produce to Bombay and the Punjab, compelling the district to import cotton or yarn for its purposes. It produces good wool which finds a sale in the plains, while the district imports blankets from the plains in large numbers for its own consumption. The tarai grows wheat and rice in extensive area, but has no mill to grind wheat or husk paddy. Wood for timber is available, but sawyers have to be imported from the plains. Read wherever one may he finds a repetition of the same thing: difficult communication, unskilled labour, want of capital and information. Ropeways may go a long way to help transport, but more cart roads are wanted. The number of carts have also to be increased by teaching the people how to make them. At present cart wheels are imported from plains at exorbitant cost. Coal is said to exist in the district, but until the mines can be located and worked it is very dear on account of the cost of transport. Cheap hydro-electric power will have to be brought to the chief industrial centres before any headway can be made in the development of the industries. Labour is not only unskilled but also unstable. Industrial schools are a great necessity. A wood-working school at Ramnagar or Haldwani, a textile school at Kashipur and a dyeing school at Kashipur or Jaspur and a blanket weaving school at Kashipur, Tanakpur or Ramnagar are recommended by the Superintendent. Itinerant teachers are

recommended for teaching manufacture of baskets and mats on a cottage basis. A systematic culture of silk-worms and lac, the refining of borax, the rearing of bees for honey, and wax, etc., have all to be popularised. Sawmills should be installed to save labour. There is ample scope for dairies and the district should early build up an export trade in ghi. Grass should be utilised locally.

A pulp plant ought to be installed in the hills instead of exporting grass all the way from the hills to Titagarh to be pulped there. Mats, baskets and many other minor products can be made out of the silk and other minor produce of the forests.

The district abounds in medicinal herbs of which a small list will be found attached to the report.

Limestone could be worked into lime on a larger scale, while several minerals can be mined with advantage. But the district is lagging behind in general and technical knowledge. It will require special treatment before its industries can be developed. The chapter of industrial possibilities deals with the requirements of the district. Briefly put they are :—

(1) The improvement of communications :—

(a) Roads. The following new cart-roads are recommended :—

- (i) Ratighat to Mukteswar via Ramgarh valley,
- (ii) Bhowali to Ramgarh.

(b) Light railways.

(c) Ropeways.

(d) Extension of existing railways.

(2) The opening of the following industrial schools :—

(a) Carpentry school at Haldwani or Ramnagar.

(b) Handloom weaving school at Kashipur.

(c) Dyeing and printing school at Kashipur or Jaspur.

(d) Blanket weaving school at Tanakpur or Ramnagar.

(3) Arrangements for imparting instructions in—

(a) propagation of lac,

(b) rearing of silk-worms,

(c) jam-making,

(d) packing of fruits,

- (e) manufacture of baskets and mats,
 - (f) scientific culture of bees,
 - (g) dairies.
- (4) Organization of co-operative societies amongst—
- (a) weavers,
 - (b) dyers,
 - (c) dairy farms.
- (5) Arrangements for prospecting for minerals:
- (a) iron,
 - (b) mica,
 - (c) quartz.
- (6) Establishment of—
- (a) rice mill,
 - (b) oil mill,
 - (c) match factory,
 - (d) pulp factory,
 - (e) flour mill,
 - (f) dairy farms,
 - (g) fibre machinery.

The position under which (1) weavers have to pay an interest of Re. 0-2-0 per week per rupee or 600 per cent. per annum, (2) rice is husked at a cost of 5 seers plus half broken rice which together would amount to not less than 20 per cent. of the price, (3) wheat is ground at a cost of 33 per cent. of the price of wheat, (4) cart accessories are procurable at a cost of Re. 100 per set, or (5) milk is purchased by the dealers at 12 seers per rupee to be retailed at 4 seers, must be altered, and even a small attempt to ameliorate the condition of the hillmen should be much appreciated. Difficulties there are many, greatest may be the ignorance and the apathy of the people themselves; but it should only mean larger efforts to carry the light of civilisation to these remote parts of the provinces.

The report has been drawn up on lines similar to others and has been revised by Mr. S. T. Gadre, Industrial Chemist to Government, United Provinces, to whom we are indebted for many valuable suggestions. Thanks are also due to the following

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5. Pandit Basudeva Sharma, Forest Officer, Nepal.
6. Pandit Chintamani Pant, District Engineer, Naini Tal.
7. Pandit Govind Ballabh Upreti, Superintendent Government Secretariat.
8. Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Vakil, Naini Tal.

CHAMPA RAM MISRA

The 6th March, 1928.